

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

January 29, 2008

Plastic carryout bags have a significant negative impact on wildlife and the environment. The California Integrated Waste Management Board found that Los Angeles County uses enough plastic bags to form a string long enough to reach the moon and back five times. That's the equivalent of a string of plastic bags 2,388,569 miles long.

Last week the Board approved a policy aimed at reducing the use of plastic carryout bags in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The policy set the thresholds for participation in the program and voluntary reduction goals. While this policy is a step in the right direction, our Board requires additional information, which is critical to adequately assess the impacts a 30 percent and a 65 percent reduction will have on the overall proliferation of plastic bag litter, such as the number of grocery and retail stores in the unincorporated areas, which would be subject to the policy. This information is essential in assessing if the Board's policy will have any meaningful reduction in the use of plastic carryout bags.

MOTION

Molina _____

Yaroslavsky _____

Knabe _____

Antonovich _____

Burke _____

The unincorporated areas of my District do not have many grocery and retail stores fitting the provisions for inclusion under AB 2449. In fact, the majority of the residents in my unincorporated areas shop at small family owned neighborhood stores. Consequently, as currently defined, a 65 percent reduction in the use of plastic carryout bags in the unincorporated areas of my District may be meaningless in its impact on reducing actual plastic bag litter.

The unincorporated areas in my District are surrounded by the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers, and are subject to a number of Total Maximum Daily Loads requirements by the Regional Water Board, including a zero trash limit. Our Department of Public Works has been struggling to meet these requirements for some time. The County is currently considering a parcel fee to help fund water quality improvements as our existing sources are not sufficient to meet our obligations. The more effective we are in reducing the usage of plastic bags in our unincorporated areas, the less public funds we will need to spend to meet our clean-up requirements.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) to report back within 60 days with a listing of stores in the unincorporated areas that will be subject to the County's plastic bag policy, and the methodology that will be used to monitor, track and evaluate the progress these stores are making in meeting our policy's goals. The CEO and DPW should also provide a list of the grocery and retail stores not subject to the policy by relying on information from our public health and business licenses.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board request that the plastic bag working group evaluate other methods by which we may reduce the use of plastic carryout bags in smaller stores located in the unincorporated areas of the County. At a minimum, the

working group should evaluate instituting a standard prohibition on the use of plastic bags via the County's business licensing and conditional use permits.

NE/sf